

Appl. No. 10/136,001
Reply to Office Action of 11/30/2005
Attorney Docket No. : 6045-006

DRAFT**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8: Cancelled

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A handheld culinary utensil for holding food objects and limiting spillage, comprising a planar base having an open end, first and second lateral side walls extending upwardly along opposing first and second lateral sides of the planar base and an arcuate handle formed by a rearwardly extending projection integral with the planar base[,] and being curved upwardly from the planar base and generally forwardly toward the open end in an arcuate manner forming a continuous curve from the planar base said arcuate handle being adapted to be held by a user's hand; wherein said utensil has no other handle for gripping said utensil.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to claim 9, wherein the arcuate handle further forms a generally tubular configuration having a generally circular transverse cross-section.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 10, wherein the arcuate handle further comprises ~~as~~ a terminating end edge of the generally forwardly curving section.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 12, wherein the terminating end edge of the arcuate handle is generally forwardly facing toward the open end of the planar base and terminates above each proximately to a top portion of the first and second lateral side walls.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 12, wherein the terminating end edge of the arcuate handle is generally rearwardly facing and proximate the planar base.

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Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to claim 9, wherein the planar base, first and second lateral side walls and arcuate handle are fabricated of stainless steel.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 9, wherein the first and second lateral side walls each further comprises a rearwardly extending flange having a radius substantially corresponding to the curvature of the arcuate handle thereby enclosing opposing lateral open ends of the arcuate handle.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 16, wherein the first and second lateral side walls each further comprise upper edges which taper forward from the rearwardly extending flange and which are co-terminus with the open end of the planar base.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The handheld culinary utensil according to Claim 17, wherein the arcuate handle further forms a generally tubular configuration having a generally circular transverse cross-section.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Cancelled)